(b) In order to increase exports of tea to Russia and other CIS countries, an office of tea Board has been set up at Moscow. Promotional campaign for Indian tea in Russia & other CIS countries through media (television & press), tea sampling demonstrations, participation in consumer exhibitions etc. have been planned by Tea Board. Efforts are also being made to increase exports of Indian tea to other countries in Europe, WANA region, USA etc. through promotional programmes.

नेपाल को गेहूं और चावल का निर्यात किया जाना

7389. **श्री अजीत जोगी** : क्या वाणिज्य मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या सरकार ने नेपाल को भारी मात्रा में गेहूं और चावल सप्लाई करने का निर्णय लिया है ;

(ख) यदि हां, तो तत्संबंधी ब्यौरा क्या है ; और

(ग) इससे कुल कितनी विदेशी मुद्रा अर्जित होने की संभावना है ?

वाणिज्य मंत्री (श्री प्रण्व मुखर्जी (क) जी, नहीं ।

(ख) और (ग) प्रश्न नहीं उठता ।

Amendment in Patent Law

7390. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have decided to amend the existing patent law by increasing the patent period from 14 to 20 years ; and

(b) if so, by when Government propose to bring forward a legislation in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) and (b) An Expert Group is being set up by the Government to consider the changes required in the Patents Act, 1970 in conformity with the Uruguay Round Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights. Suitable legislation to amend the Act will be considered after the Group submits its report.

Import of Oilseeds

7391. DR. SHRIKANT RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the quantity of oilseeds that were imported during 1993-94 alongwith the names of the countries and quantities of imported oilseeds;

(b) the total production of oilseeds in the country during this period; and

(c) the exact policy of Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) Quantity of oilseeds imported during 1993-94 (upto January, 1994) was 93,000 tonnes (approx.)

The import of oilseeds was made from USA, Malaysia, Singapore, Guinea, Srilanka, Thailand, Nepal, Argentina, France,German Fed. Rep. Japan, UK, Costa Rica, Guyana and Brazil

(Source : DGCI&S, Calcutta. Figures are provisional).

(b) According to present assessment the production of nine oilseeds, viz. Groundnut, Castorseed, Seasamum, Nigerseed, Rapeseed & Mustard, Lineseed, Safflower, Sunflower and Soyabean during 1993-94 is expected to be about 21.85 million tonnes.